



Edwards Hall Primary School

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC) Policy

Reference:	SMSC Policy
Responsibility of:	SMSC Lead
Date Issued:	May 2017
Governor Approved:	June 2017
Review Date:	June 2019

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At Edwards Hall Primary School we recognise that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of children plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We ensure that through our school vision, rules, curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, lifestyles and faiths. As a school, we feel our values are a true reflection of British values. Our SMSC standard is strengthened through actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Ofsted will look for evidence of: (from Inspection Handbook Sept 2014)

'Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain'.

Value Statement

At Edwards Hall Primary School we have a duty to keep our children safe and prepare them for life in modern Britain. We promote tolerance of, and respect for, people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles and prepare our children for life in modern Britain.

At Edwards Hall Primary School we aim to deliver an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs. This can include spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

Aims

Through our provision of SMSC, at Edwards Hall Primary School we will:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people;
- encourage respect for democracy and participate in democratic processes;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles;
- ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school;
- ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background;
- ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why;
- give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience;
- enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity;
- enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society;

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- give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility

Implementation

Principles of SMSC at Edwards Hall Primary School:

- all curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this are identified in termly plans;
- all adults should model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families;
- the school community is a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals, and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school;
- pupils learn to differentiate between rights and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people;
- pupils are encouraged to value themselves and others;
- pupils understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone;
- school and classroom rules reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements;
- all curriculum areas seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This is reflected in teachers' planning and resources purchased to support lessons.

Teaching and Organisation

At Edwards Hall Primary School:

- development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas including through half-termly assemblies and within class activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle;
- all curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

At Edwards Hall Primary School class discussions, Philosophy for Children (P4C) and circle time will give pupils opportunities to:

- talk about personal experiences and feelings;
- express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs;
- speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc.;
- share thoughts and feelings with other people;
- explore relationships with friends/family/others;
- consider others' needs and behaviour;
- show empathy;
- develop self-esteem and a respect for others;
- develop a sense of belonging;
- develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally, e.g., empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc.

At Edwards Hall Primary School curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- listen and talk to each other;
- learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically or mentally different;
- agree and disagree;
- take turns and share equipment;
- work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Links with the Wider Community

- visitors are regularly welcomed into school;
- links with the local churches and a variety of religious communities on the local area who come in and lead assemblies;
- the development of a strong home/school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil;
- pupils will be taught and encouraged to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it;
- children engage in fundraising for local needs and beyond – researched and organised by the School Council;
- children are given the opportunity to enter competitions.

Spiritual Development

At Edwards Hall Primary School we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- develop and sustain self-esteem;
- enable pupils to understand their worth and value in the world;
- develop their capacity for critical thinking and independent thought;
- experience moments of stillness and reflection;
- discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences;
- form and maintain worthwhile friendships;
- reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral Development

At Edwards Hall Primary School we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- recognise the unique value of each individual;
- listen and respond appropriately to the views of others;
- gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes;
- take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others;
- distinguish between right and wrong;
- show respect for the environment;
- make informed and independent judgements.

Social Development

At Edwards Hall Primary School we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- foster a sense of community with common, inclusive values which ensure that everyone, irrespective of ethnic origin, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation and religion, can flourish;
- provide positive and effective links with the local and wider community;
- provide opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership and responsibility

Cultural Development

At Edwards Hall Primary School we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society.
- develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment;
- develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions;
- have the opportunity to engage in activities which support cultural awareness;
- recognise and celebrate particular gifts and talents

Monitoring and Evaluation

At Edwards Hall Primary School provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:

- monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning;
- regular discussion at staff and governor's meetings;
- reviewing of policies and Schemes of Work;
- sharing of classroom work and practice;
- collation of evidence of pupils' work and pupil voice.

Equal Opportunity

We are committed to providing a teaching environment conducive to learning. Each child is valued, respected and challenged regardless of ability, race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability. Each pupil is well prepared to respect others and contribute to wider society and life in modern Britain.

Appendix 1: Edwards Hall Primary School Overview of SMSC Linked in with the Fundamental British Values

Democracy	Rule of Law	Individual Liberty	Mutual Respect	Tolerance of those with different faiths/ beliefs
<p>To ensure students understand democracy and its importance. To encourage students to support and participate in the democratic processes in England and understand how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.</p>	<p>To understand that people hold different views about what is right and wrong however everyone living in England are subject to its law.</p>	<p>To ensure that our students understand that they, and all other citizens have the right to express themselves and their views freely.</p>	<p>To respect others and their views and create harmony between different cultural traditions by encouraging students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures.</p>	<p>To show an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour</p>
<p>Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at Edwards Hall. Our pupil elected school council plays a strong role in our school. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in making the school a better place to learn. Pupils have a great amount of input in regards to what and how they learn, which promotes pupil voice. For example, the pupils decide as a class how they would like to learn certain skills in subjects and this is used to inform the teacher’s planning. Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the formation of the school council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.</p>	<p>Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the learning space, the school, the local community or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to. This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. The involvement of our pupils in the creation of class rules helps them to understand the reasons behind the rules and the consequences if they are broken. Through philosophical enquiry in our philosophy for learning lessons, we allow opportunity to debate and discuss the reasons for laws so that children can recognise the importance of these for their own protection. Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community. We believe that clear explanations emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.</p>	<p>We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In lessons, learning tasks are often left for the child to decide upon. We encourage children to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning. We offer a range of clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests. Through our E-Safety, philosophy for learning and PSHE sessions, we educate children on their rights and personal freedoms as well as supporting them in recognising how to exercise these freedoms safely. At Edwards Hall we believe that valuing choice and freedom in daily school life will foster a value for individual liberty as the children embark upon their adult lives. We are committed to ensuring that all of our pupils develop their skills of independence, collaboration, co-operation and problem solving to enable a true love of learning.</p>	<p>Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms. Our school has a strong family atmosphere and sense of community and offers a variety of development opportunities for all our children, parents and staff. Ofsted recognised our behaviour as ‘Outstanding’ and we feel this is due to children becoming more able to articulate their thoughts and feelings in a safe and respectful environment. Our pupils will discuss aspects that affect them as they know we listen and value what they are saying.</p>	<p>At Edwards Hall we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. At the school we strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future.</p>
<p>Social, Moral</p>	<p>Social, Moral, Cultural</p>	<p>Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural</p>	<p>Spiritual, Social, Moral, Cultural</p>	<p>Spiritual, Cultural</p>